

PETER WELCH  
AT-LARGE, VERMONT

CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

COMMITTEE ON  
OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON INTELLIGENCE

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-4500**

2187 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4500  
202-225-4115

DISTRICT:  
128 LAKESIDE AVENUE  
SUITE 235  
BURLINGTON, VT 05401  
(802) 652-2450  
(888) 605-7270

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

Please see the following information about projects to be considered for the Labor, Health, and Human Services, Education and related Agencies Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2023. The following projects have community support and will be an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars.

**Project Applicant:** Southwestern Vermont Medical Center

**Project Name:** Facility renovation to create a mental health outpatient program for children

**Project Location:** 1128 Monument Avenue, Bennington, VT 05201

**Project County:** Bennington

**Requested Amount:** \$250,000

**Account:** Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

**Project Explanation:** This funding would be used to renovate an existing facility to create an outpatient mental health program for children.

One in six Vermont children struggle with mental health. A gap in the mental health care continuum hampers access to services, and unmet needs often escalate to crisis. The requested \$250,000 will support the creation of a non-institutional site for children in need of intensive outpatient mental healthcare. For the scale of investment, this project will impact the futures of many children.

Intermittent outpatient counseling is often insufficient to address complex mental health challenges faced by children, yet many do not need the rigor of inpatient care. There are no intensive outpatient mental health programs in southern Vermont. In partnership with United Counseling Service, the region's designated agency, children will receive counseling for several hours each day to learn reframing and resiliency skills in a bucolic setting that supports healing. The facility will foster collaboration with families and schools to create a psychosocial ecosystem that has life-long benefit.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Welch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" and last name "Welch" clearly distinguishable.

Peter Welch  
Member of Congress